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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04,

DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, NSAE 00, IO 21, AID 30, RSR 01, /156 W

R 020800Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1419
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1052
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2663

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC, MR
REVIEWED BY *Donna J. Gentry* DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7414

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN PHONG DINH

REF: SAIGON 6813

1. AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, PHONG DINH'S THREE LOWER HOUSE SEATS WERE CONTESTED BY 24 CANDIDATES. TRAN THOI NGUYEN, TRAM KY PHUNG AND DINH NGOC THUY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FOR INADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION. LOCAL CVT LABOR UNION LEADER VO VAN DAU WAS EXCLUDED FOR ALLEGED VIET CONG CONNECTIONS. DAU WAS PREVIOUSLY ON THAT CVT TICKET WHICH WAS EXCLUDED FROM SENATE RACE. [SAY THEY KEEP

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41M UNDER OBSERVATION CONTINUOUSLY. THEY ALLEGE THAT IN MAY, 1966, DAU INCITED PEOPLE FROM COUNTRYSIDE TO COME TO CAN THO TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR WAR DAMAGES. DAU

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HAS APPEALED BUT LOST.

2. LEADING CANDIDATES:

A. NGO VAN HIEU, ARVN CAPTAIN. STUDIED MEDICINE AT HANOI AND SAIGON UNIVERSITIES. BUDDHIST REFUGEE FROM NORTH IN 1954. MAIN ELECTION PROGRAM IS TO EXPAND RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES. COOPERATING WITH HOA HAO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE PHAM VAN HOI AND CLAIMS SUPPORT OF HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ALSO EXPECTED TO GET SOME OF MILITARY VOTE AS HE IS SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER RUNNING.

B. DANG SAN TRONG - DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF, CAN THO IN MID-1950'S. BORN IN MY THO. RUNNING ON RECORD OF EXPERIENCE AND PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS. COMPLAINS ABOUT LOW CALIBER OF OTHER CANDIDATES.

C. NGUYEN VAN HOI - PRESENT PHONG DINH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY WHO APPEARS TO HAVE MAINTAINED HIS LOCAL CONTACTS BETTER THAN MANY OTHER CA DEPUTIES.

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D. PHAM VAN HOI - CANDIDATE OF LOCAL HOA HAO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

E. TRAN PHUOC KHANH - VICE CHAIRMAN LOCAL SOUTHERN BUDDHIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION. EDUCATION THROUGH FIRST DEGREE FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL. EXCLUDED FROM RUNNING FOR LEGISLATURE UNDER DIEM. SECRETARY GENERAL OF PHONG DINH RED CROSS.

3. CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE:

A. DOAN VAN TRUONG - MOVEMENT FOR RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER. CATHOLIC. HOWEVER, MRS HAS LOST SOME PRESTIGE IN PHONG DINH AFTER POOR SHOWING OF TRAN VAN HUONG. RAN FOR CA LAST YEAR AND UPPER HOUSE ON LIST 26, WHICH EZD POORLY IN PHONG DINH.

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B. PHAN DA VAN - CAO DAI WELL-KNOWN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER.

C. TRAN MINH QUANG - HOA HAO, OWNS PHARMACY, HEAD OF PHONG DINH PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, TREASURER PHONG DINH RED CROSS. RAN FOR CA LAST YEAR.

D. NGUYEN TONG QUOC TRACH - COOPERATING WITH PHAM VAN HOI. LAW DEGREE. ARVN S-5 PHONG DINH. RAN FOR CA LAST YEAR.

E. DAM QUANG DON - HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, RUMORED

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TO BE SUPPORTED BY TRAN VAN DON IN FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIERS PARTY. CANDIDATES CAO VAN QUOI, TRAN VAN TAM, TA QUANG LOI AND TRAN TRUNG HIEU ARE HOA HAO.

4. MOST CANDIDATES ADVANCE GENERAL PROGRAM OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND ATTACK CORRUPTION. NONE SAY THEY FOLLOW PEACE PLATFORM OF TRUONG DINH DZU.

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00, CIAE 00, SSO 00, DODE 00, USIE 00, NSAE 00, SP 02, SS 35,

GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, L 03, H 02, SAL 01, SAH 03, P 04, INR 02

AID 30, IO 21, RSR 01, /143 W

Z R 021500Z OCT 67 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8019
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4433
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2674
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1057

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7435

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

1. AS OF 2130 LOCAL TIME ASSEMBLY ENGAGED IN GENERAL
DEBATE ON VALIDATION WITH VOTE EXPECTED BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

2. THERE HAS BEEN RATHER STRANGE DEVELOPMENT UPON WHICH
WE PREFER TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENT UNTIL PICTURE IS SOMEWHAT
CLEARER. WE NONETHELESS REPORT THE FACTS AS RELAYED TO US
TELEPHONICALLY BY EMBOFF ATTENDING SESSION. IN ITS RE-
CAPITULATION OF IRREGULARITIES BASED ON SIX ACCEPTED CRITERIA
(SEE SAIGON 7428 AND SAIGON 7352) THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

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HAS REPORTED THAT THERE WERE IRREGULARITIES AT 2724 POLLING

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STATIONS. (WE HAVE NO EXPLANATION AT THIS TIME OF WHY THIS FIGURE IS HIGHER THAN THE 2531 REPORTED SAIGON 7352.) THE NUMBER OF VOTES CAST AT THESE 2724 POLLING STATIONS AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED IRREGULAR WAS 1,449,847. COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE AT THOSE POLLING STATIONS WHERE VOTING CONSIDERED REGULAR BY CRITERIA ACCEPTED BY ASSEMBLY WAS AS FOLLOWS: THIEU/KY, 1,216,390 VOTES AND DZU 228,309 VOTES. THUS DZU WHO ATTAINED 800,285 VOTES IN COUNTRY AS A WHOLE PROPORTIONALLY ATTAINED A VERY MUCH HIGHER VOTE IN THOSE POLLING AREAS WHICH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS LABELLED IRREGULAR, IN FACT THE BULK OF HIS VOTE. WHEREAS THIEU/KY WHO RECEIVED 1,638,902 IN COUNTRY AS A WHOLE RECEIVED ROUGHLY SAME PERCENTAGE OF VOTE IN "REGULAR" AND "IRREGULAR" POLLING AREAS.

3. AT 2215 [] CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF TELEPHONICALLY THAT ABOVE FIGURES ARE THOSE REPORTED BY COMMITTEE. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS IS VERY FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT TO LIST OF THIEU/KY. [] DOES NOT EXPECT VOTE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER HOUR.
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